

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Date of submission of the demand	Date of completion of this report
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/EP2004/009963

Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **language**, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
- ☐ This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
- ☐ international search (Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b))
- ☐ publication of the international application (Rule 12.4)
- ☐ international preliminary examination (Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3)
2. With regard to the **elements** of the international application, this report is based on *(replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report)*:
- ☐ the international application as originally filed/furnished
- ☒ the description:
- pages 2-8 _____ as originally filed/furnished
- pages* 1 _____ received by this Authority on 14.07.2005 with letter of 13.07.2005
- pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☒ the claims:
- nos. _____ as originally filed/furnished
- nos.* _____ as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
- nos.* 1-4 _____ received by this Authority on 14.07.2005 with letter of 13.07.2005
- nos.* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☒ the drawings:
- sheets 1/1 _____ as originally filed/furnished
- sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☐ a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) – see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.
3. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:
- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims, nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): _____
4. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).
- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims, nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): _____

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

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Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement		
1.	Statement		
	Novelty (N)	Claims <u>1-4</u>	YES
		Claims _____	NO
	Inventive step (IS)	Claims <u>1-4</u>	YES
		Claims _____	NO
	Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims <u>1-4</u>	YES
		Claims _____	NO
2.	Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)		
1	Reference is made to the following documents:		
	<p>D1: US-A-5 770 841 (MOED MICHAEL C ET AL) 23 June 1998 (1998-06-23)</p> <p>D2: US-B1-6 557 758 (MONICO DOMINICK L) 6 May 2003 (2003-05-06)</p>		
2.1	<p>Document D1 discloses (the references between parentheses refer to that document) a method for generating random test samples for optimising automatic optical readers for inscriptions on mail items (see column 2, lines 32 - 38), from which the subject matter of claim 1 differs in that in addition to the optical reading, the contents of wireless-readable electronic memory units located on or in the mail item are read and the data indicating the destination address is stored as destination address scheduled data together with the captured image of the surface of the mail item if the destination address information has been identified and read from a memory unit.</p>		
2.2	The subject matter of claim 1 is thus novel (PCT		

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	<p data-bbox="418 359 699 386">Article 33(2)).</p> <p data-bbox="302 457 1365 632">3 The current invention can be considered to address the problem of implementing a method which allows reliable, accurate distribution of mail items even when the inscription on the mail item is unclear.</p> <p data-bbox="302 703 1365 877">4.1 The solution to this problem as proposed in claim 1 of the present application involves an inventive step (PCT Article 33(3)) for the following reasons:</p> <p data-bbox="302 949 1365 1325">4.2 In order to solve the problem mentioned under point 3 of reliably distributing mail items, document D1 discloses the reading of a barcode that contains the mail inscription in an encoded format as well as the mail inscription itself. The valid mail inscription ("destination address scheduled data") is determined from both sets of information and is stored in a database.</p> <p data-bbox="418 1396 1365 1772">In contrast, in the claimed method not only the valid mail inscription ("destination address scheduled data"), but also the corresponding, possibly unclear mail inscription, is stored in a database. Based on these database entries, the address reader system can be continuously adapted so as to be able to extract accurate information even from unclear mail inscriptions.</p> <p data-bbox="418 1843 1365 1925">Document D1 does not contain any information regarding the joint storage of both mail items in</p>

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	<p>a database. Nor does D1 suggest such a method step.</p> <p>4.3 Document D2 shows a goods package provided with an RFID tag, by means of which the goods package is distributed to the destination address. The package also includes a mail inscription, which allows a mail distributor to monitor the mail delivery process.</p> <p>D2 does not indicate or suggest the storing of both sets of information, the RFID tag information and the mail inscription, in a common database.</p> <p>5 Claims 2 - 4 are dependent on claim 1 and therefore likewise meet the PCT requirements for novelty and inventive step.</p>